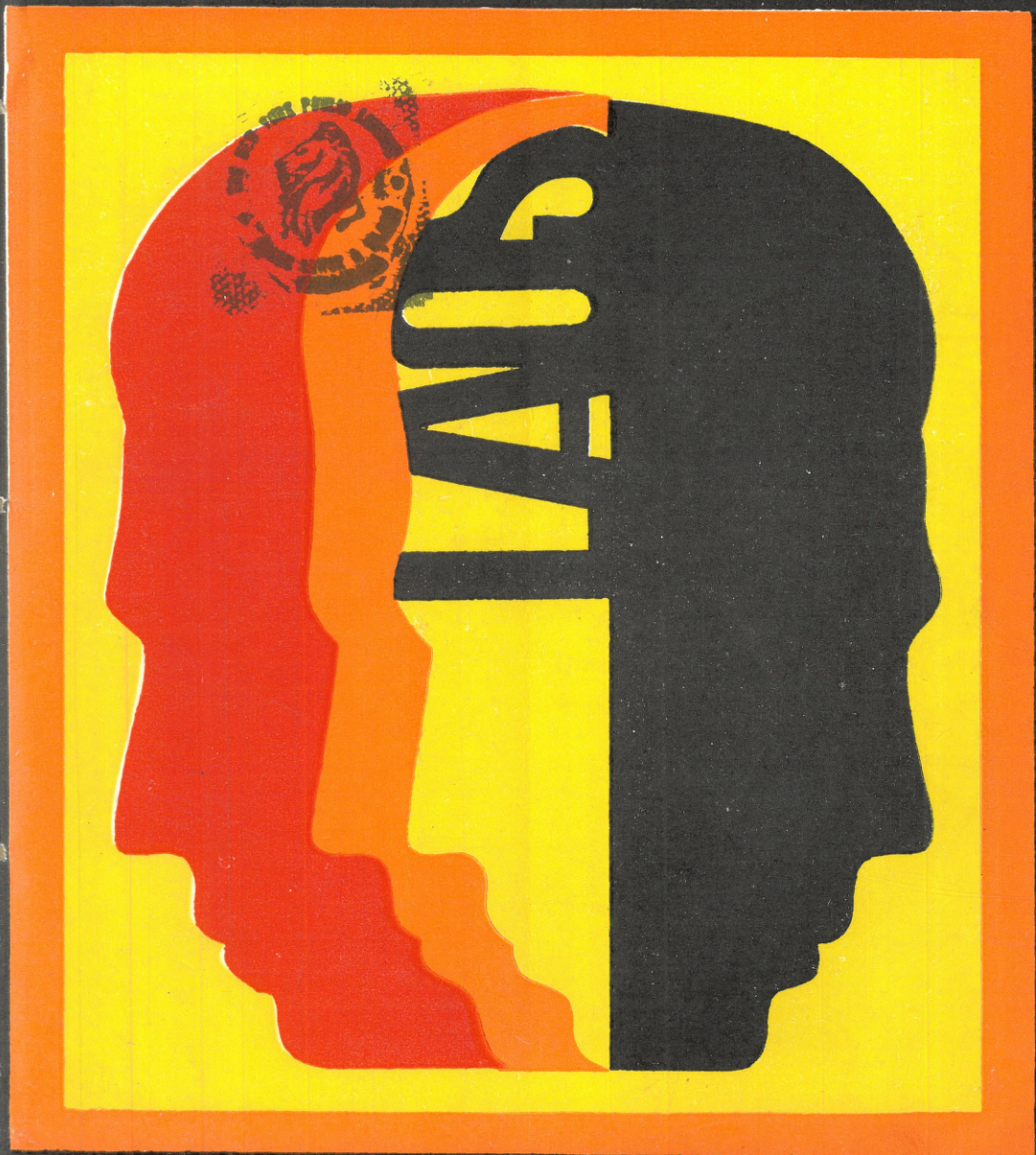
TRICONTINENTAL 19



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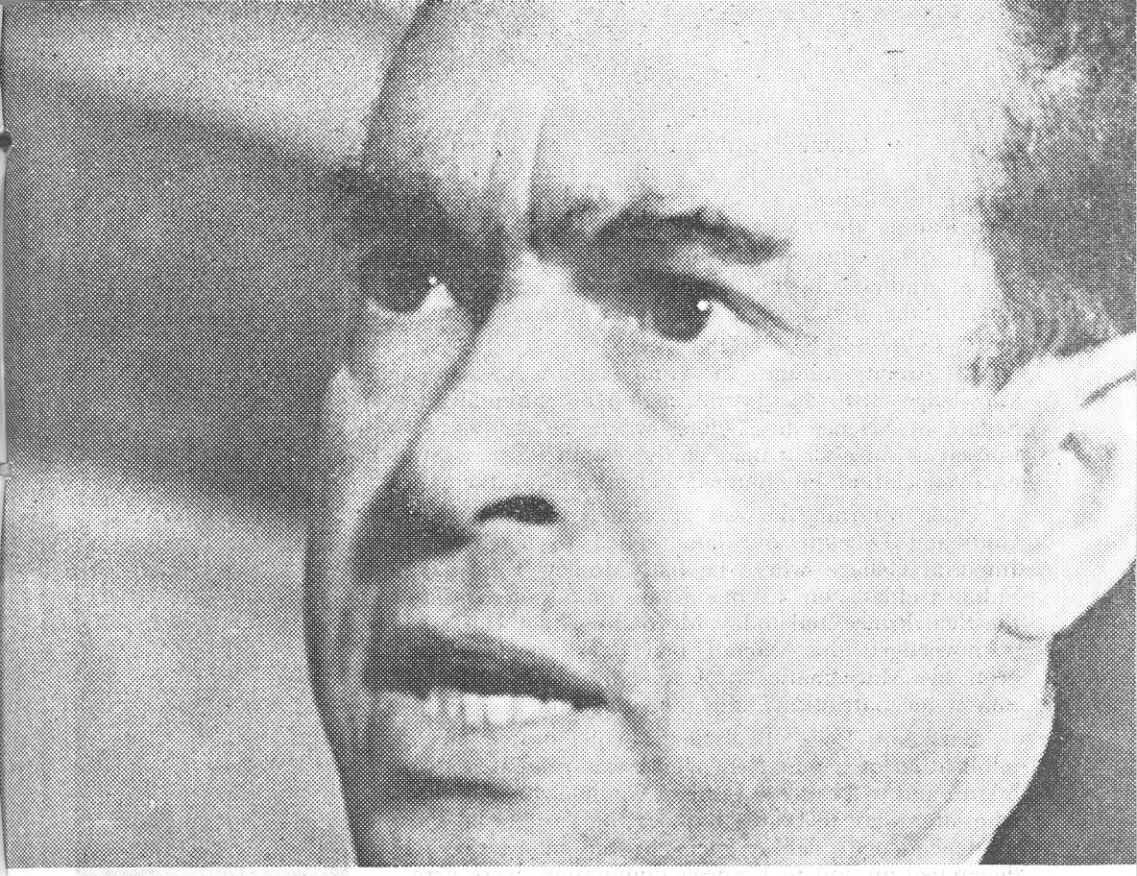


BEN BARKA: Revolutionary of the Third World

Next October 29th will be the second anniversary of the kidnapping and assassination of the Moroccan revolutionary, El Mahdi Ben Barka.

The details of the sinister event have been so widely publicized that it is unnecessary to repeat them. However, Ben Barka's brilliant personality deserves to be outlined once again.

He was born in 1920, the second son of a very poor family, in Medina de Rabat. At the age of nine he managed to be admitted to the "school for the sons of notables", a free primary educational institution. Later, thanks to his personal qualities and his thirst for knowledge, he was tranferred to the Moulay Youssef School.

BEN BARKA

Meanwhile, the Moroccan Nationalist Movement against the Colonial Administration developed and Ben Barka participated, as a militant student, in an organization known as "Moroccan Action", which was then leading the nationalist struggle.

In 1938, when there were no more than 20 high school graduates in that country, a Moroccaan student was for the first time in history awarded a prize for his examination marks: Ben Barka.

An ardent militant, he combined his passion for knowledge with his patriotism. After attending the School of Science in Algiers, where he distinguished himself as Vice-Chairman of the North African Students Association, he obtained a degree in Mathematics.

Upon returning he was appointed professor in the Goureaud Lyceum and later called to teach at the Imperial College where he had Mouley Hassan, the Sultan's eldest son, as one of his pupils. Years later, the then Prince and today Moroccan King, Hassan II, acknowledged that Mehdi Ben Barka not only had been his Mathematics professor, but that: "He also taught me patriotism", the monarch said.

Early in 1944, Ben Barka collaborated in the publication of a manifesto which was presented to the Sultan and to France's Resident Commissioner by those who later were to be the founders of the Istiqlal Party (Independence). The signers of the manifesto, who demanded an end to France's domination, were arrested. So, in February of that year, Ben Barka goes to prison for the first time.

After his release from prison one year later, he participated in an Administrative Committee of Istiqlal's Executive Council, where he deals with orientation, organization and press affairs. He also dedicated himself to teaching in schools created by the Istiqlal within the framework of a campaign against illiteracy and played a decisive role in the conversion of the Party into a real mass movement.

The authorities of the Protectorate reacted violently in the face of the increasing nationalist activities. The French-Moroccan conflict took on an international character. In 1948, Ben Barka went to Paris as a member of a mission of the Istiqlal Party gathering information and making contacts during the session of the General Assembly and the UN Trusteeship Council which was being held in that city.

Considered a dangerous adversary by colonial authorities, he was kidnapped by the French Police

REVOLUTIONARY OF THE THIRD WORLD

and sent, under custody, to Middelt. He was later transferred to Ksar el Souk and from there to Bon Denib, Talsint and finally to Imilchil, which is one of the highest and most inaccessible places on the globe. Despite this isolation and the limited number of visitors, he managed to send notes through his mother to the leaders of the Istiqlal Party and to the Arab and Asian Delegation to the United Nations. At the same time, he took a correspondence course in Political Economy.

A new wave of represion was unleashed. Mohammed V was overthrown, deported with his family and replaced by Ben Araf. Hundreds of nationalists are arrested and Ben Barka was sent to a concentration camp in Arbalon N'Kerdouss, along with many leaders and militants of the Istiqlal Party.

Released in 1954, he dedicated himself to the reconstruction of the Istiqlal Party and its coordination with underground and semi-underground organizations. He also made contact with the Mounadanna Serrya, created in 1953, and its traditional arm: The Liberation Army.

In August, 1955, the French government convened the conference of Aix le Bains in an attempt to "pull Morocco out of the impasse." Ben Barka, Ahmed Lynizidi and Omar Abdejellil made up the Delegation headed by Abderrahim Bouabid which earnestly defended the Sultan's return to Morocco as a requisite for the solution of the French-Moroccan conflict. Ben Barka was assigned with the mission of preparing Mohammed V's return and, in March of 1956, with the granting of political independence to Morocco, a new phase of Ben Barka's struggle for true independence began.

As a member of the Istiqlal's Executive Committee, he was in charge of organization, orientation, press, youth and cadres. During the first Moroccan government he also handled the coordination between the Party and the Ministries. He was appointed Chairman of the National Consultative Assembly of Independent Morocco.

But the struggle went on. Reactionary forces feared the evolution of the popular masses which threatened to destroy the feudal structures of the country. Within the Istiqlal itself, a confrontation developed between the right wing and the radicals. Ben Barka resigned as editor of the weekly AL ISTIQLAL in open conflict with its Secretary General, Ahmed Balafrej, who wanted to impose a "moderate" policy.

In January, 1959, he broke away from the rightist leadership of Istiqlal and, in September of the same year, he created, together with Mohamed Basri, Abderramane Yousfi and Abderrahim Bouabid, the National Union of People's Forces (NUFF), which was to begin a political, economic and social struggle in the country.

In January, 1960, Ben Barka represented NUFF at the Second Pan-African Congress of the Peoples held in Tunisia, and in April of the same year he attended the Conference of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Organization in Conakry.

With the fall of Ibrahim's government, Ben Barka had to leave the country for security reasons. He came back on May 16th, 1962, in order to participate in the Second NUFF Congress, and was welcomed by tens of thousands of persons.

In July, 1963, alarmed by the increasing influence of the leftist forces, King Hassan II ordered his close collaborator, General Mohammed Oufkir, to arrest and torture hundreds of NUFF leaders and militants.

Ben Barka, who was then abroad, could not return to Morocco. He then did Foreign Relations work for his organization and gained prestige and popularity within the Afro-Asian Solidarity Organization. During the III Conference of the AASO, held in Moshi, Tanzania, he was one of the strongest supporters of the idea of holding a Tricontinental Conference to group together the revolutionaries of the Third World. His efforts were crowned with success at the AASO Conference, held in Winneba in 1965, where the holding of a Tricontinental Conference in Havana the following year was approved.

He was elected Chairman of the International Preparatory Committee, and fully aware of its importance, he devoted his organizational abilities to this task. At that time he travelled to Cuba to prepare for the Conference.

On October 29th of that same year, he was kidnapped in Paris by agents of Moroccan Minister, of the Interior General Oufkir, in collusion with the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

Ben Barka was convinced that cooperation between the popular movements of Africa, Asia and Latin America was indispensable for the common struggle against colonial, neo-colonial and capitalist exploitation.

LAOS and its struggle for independence

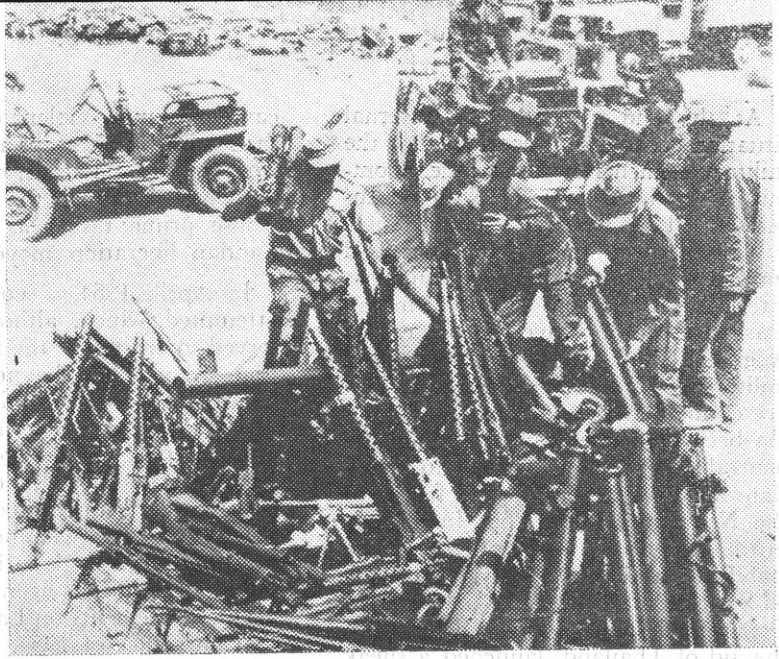
On October 12, 1945, after the defeat of Japanese imperialism, the ancient kingdom of Laos was proclaimed independent. A coalition government was formed with the representatives of the neutralist forces of Souvanna Phouma and those of the leftist movement headed by Prince Souphanouvong who at the time had set up the **Lao Itsala** organization with the participation of other patriotic groups. Initiating an era of independence after nearly a century of colonial domination, the coalition government was short-lived, disappearing with the new period of reconquest.

The French came into Laos once against occupying the regions of Donghen and Phalane on Route No. 9, Maxeng and Phom Xim on the local Route No. 13, and the outskirts of Thaknek. Popular Laotian troops led

by Prince Souphanouvong withdrew to the mountains to prepare and organize anti-French resistance, while the provisional government established its general headquarters abroad and around 2000 persons fled to Thailand, mostly followers of Prince Phetsarath of the so-called Laotian elite and leader of the **Lao Issara** movement. Other leaders such as Phoumi Sananikone and Que Katay, imitating Emperor Bao Dai of South Viet Nam, entered into the service of colonialism. The resistance movement, however, established the bases for guerrilla warfare in Champassak which extended to the south of Sebang-Fay (lower Laos) and finally reached Tourakhon and other provinces where the flames of popular insurrection had taken hold at the call of the Pathet Lao.

In August, 1950, Prince Souphanouvong, together with other resistance leaders, convened the National Congress of Representatives of the Laotian People, including delegates of different nationality groups. The Congress drew up a broad national unity program and constituted the popular **Neo Lao Itsala** united front and a coalition government of resistance headed by the Prince himself. Since then, the revolutionary forces of Laos participating in this powerful united front under the banner of the struggle for national independence, have constituted the armed vanguard of the people.

At the beginning of 1954, revolutionary forces had liberated half the country, contributing to the great people's victory in Indochina which did away with French colonial domination. Thus, in the same year of 1954, the Geneva Conference re-established the peace and neutrality of Laos. The **Neo Lao Itsala,** in compliance with the Geneva agreements, immediately ordered a ceasefire, and, at the same time, consolidated the provinces of Samneua and Phongsaly where it had regrouped its troops. On October 28, 1954, Prince Souphanouvong, in the name of the Laotian revolutionary forces he commanded, announced his decision to cooperate with the royal government in order to strengthen the peace, restore democratic liberties and achieve national unity. It was under these principles that negotiations began between the royal government and the Pathet Lao. Meanwhile U. S. imperialism intervened in the country's internal affairs, ordering the Katay government to attack the provinces of Samneua and Phongsaly with the aim of annihilating the fighting units of the Pathet Lao, capturing their zones of influence and transforming the country into a U.S. military base and colony. In view of this situation, the revolutionary leadership, on one hand, began a struggle of self-defense, and, on the other hand, continued conversations with the royal government. In January, 1956, the National Congress of the Representatives of the Laotian People was convened again and this time it organized the **Neo Lao Haksat** front. In August of the same year, came the signing of the Vientiane agreements which established that the territory under control of the Pathet Lao was to be returned to the nation, and a portion of the revolutionary forces was to be incorporated into the Royal Laotian army, the remainder being demobilized. In turn the royal government promised to carry out a policy of peace and neutrality, to form a national coalition government with the participation of the Pathet Lao representatives, to guarantee the **Neo Lao Haksat** party full exercise of legal activities, to guarantee democratic liberties and to organize complementary elections with the participation of the **Neo Lao Haksat** party. The national coalition government was formed in



November, 1957, with Prince Souphanouvong as Minister of Planning, Reconstruction and Urban Development. Another leader, Phoumi Vongvichit, was named Minister of Culture and Fine Arts.

In the complementary elections of 1958 nine candidates from the **Neo Lao Haksat** were elected. Prince Souphanouvong was elected Deputy to the National Assembly by an overwhelming majority of votes. Worth pointing out is the intense activity carried on by this Laotian leader within the coalition government, especially his great contribution to the initial results of the policy of national conciliation and unification. Nevertheless, all these efforts came to nothing since the coalition government met the same fate as its predecessor, the only difference being that the second coalition government was destroyed by reactionary elements in the pay of imperialism. U.S. intervention in Laos was energetically condemned by the **Neo Lao Haksat** which appealed to the International Control Commission several times, pointing out the danger of the changing situation. Likewise, it demanded that the Sananikone government correctly apply the Geneva and Vientiane agreements and that it permit the Commission to carry its functions freely and impartially. Needless to say, these petitions were not heeded. On the contrary, the Sananikone government intensified its attacks against the Laotian patriots, arresting its principal leaders, among them Prince Soughanouvong. All the efforts of the Laotian reactionary forces were concentrated against the patriotic and anti-imperialist movement in order to stifle the fighting zeal of the people and divert them from the just struggle for national liberation.

At the end of 1959, the internal situation became so precarious that the military elements in the so-called Committee for the Defense of National Interests, led by General Phoumi Nosavan, took over the government and formed a military junta which months later held fraudulent elections to enmask its true objectives. However, on August 9, 1960, a neutralist-inspired military coup overthrew the reactionary clique and Prince Souvanna Phouma became Prime Minister. Then the neutralist government tried to negotiate an agreement with the forces of the **Neo Lao Haksat,** but imperialist intromission once again prevented the stabilization of the country. The United States armed, protected and abetted General Phoumi Nosavan who, with the aid of Thailand, launched a sneak attack against the capital which, after five days of bloody combat, fell into his hands. The rebels formed a government under the no less reactionary and pro-imperialist Boun Oum. The reply of the patriotic forces to the reactionary blows was soon forthcoming. The patriots, now better armed politically and militarily, intensified the struggle against the enemy positions located near the border with Thailand. The guerrilla offensive produced a correlation of forces favorable to the people and obliged the rightist elements to form another coalition government. The agreement was signed on June 12, 1962, on the Plains of Jars by the three princes in the presence of the International Control Commission. Souvanna Phouma returned to the premiership and relative peace returned to the country. This peace was shattered two years later by the same elements who is collusion with imperialism had hoped to make Laos a new type of colony and a U.S. base of military operations. Later, the situation in Laos grew so much worse that it became extremely violent especially with the sending in of troops and large quantities of war materials, destined to advise and reinforce the rightist army whose prime task was to crush the Laotian liberation movement.

In April, 1964, a coup d'etat was attempted which, although a failure, served to crystallize the neutralist position. A part of the neutralist forces headed by Prime Minister Souvanna Phouma allied with the right, while another part joined forces with the **Neo Lao Haksat.** In fact, the tripartite government disintegrated with the balance of forces swinging over to the side of the reactionaries. Evidently, imperialism and its agents had violated all the agreements on Laos: The Geneva Conference of 1954, the 1962 Conference on Laos, and internally, the Vientiane and Jars agreements.

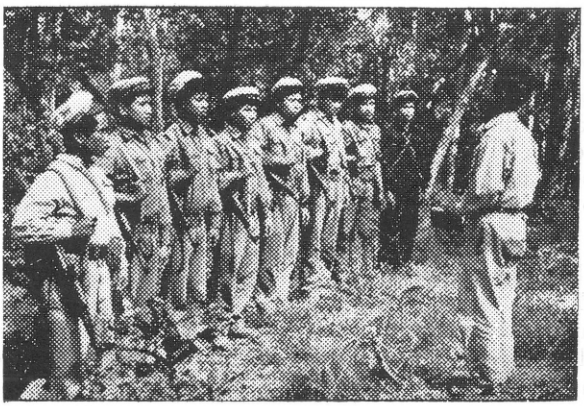
Present Situation

In October, 1965, the date of the Political Consultative Congress on Laos held by the **Neo Lao Haksat,** the Laotian liberation movement was strengthened by the entry into its ranks of truly neutralist and patriotic forces who took up arms alongside the people. New prospects of struggle opened up and a minimum program was drawn up demanding the cessation of direct U.S. aggression in liberated areas, the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. military personnel from Laotian territory and the re-establishment of a national coalition government in accord with the 1962 Geneva Agreements. In this way, a final appeal was made to convert the people's hope for a peaceful, neutral and independent Laos into a reality. This appeal was met with the most brutal violence on the part of the rightist militarists and the imperialists who in the last two years have intensified their air and land attacks against liberated zones. Thus, upper and mid-

dle Laos have been subjected to incessant air attacks aimed at destroying communications and transportation and intimidating the people with the intensification of psychological warfare and the formation of bandit groups. These aggressive actions have increased progressively, as indicated by the bombings of the northern part of the country in the provinces of Luang-Prabang, Nam Than, Moung-Sai and Phong Sali, including zones under the control of neutralist forces in Kham-uon near the Chinese border. The guerrilla bases in Lower Laos have also been bombed. U. S. air incursions against Laos number between 1000 and 1300 every month, three times the number of raids in 1965. Even Thailand-based B-52's are being used. These planes drop 2000-pound bombs as well as toxic chemical products in densely populated regions.

But the enemy has suffered serious defeats. More than 200 planes have been downed, and in this year alone, thousands of rightist soldiers have been wounded or killed by the guerrilla units of the **Neo Lao Haksat.** With every day that passes new contingents are swelling the ranks of the liberation movement of Laos. The number of victories increases constantly. As in Viet Nam, the people of Laos are dealing imperialism devastating blows, all of which explains the military efforts of the Yankees with the explicit participation of the regimes of Saigon, Bangkok and the reactionary clique of Vientiane. Laos is swarming with U.S. military advisers who are at present preparing the way for the introduction of U.S. infantry troops. Should they take this step, the imperialists will have to face a fight to the death similar to the one being waged by the Vietnamese people. Without a shadow of a doubt, U. S. imperialism will be defeated in the great battle that will culminate in the definitive independence of the people of Laos.

LAOS



ACTUALITÉS TRICONTINENTALES

AFRICA

NIGERIA

By mid-August the confrontation in Nigeria reached the point of "total war" as armed clashes occurred in all four regions of the country.

According to reports from the Lagos Command, its troops fought against units of the secessionist sector of the western and west-central regions and in Biafra.

The federal air force bombed the eastern region's main power plant in the Orji River Valley. Meanwhile, elsewhere it was announced that the federal troops had suffered a crushing defeat in the vicinity of Okene, a city in the west-central region, while at the same time planes of the separatist region of Biafra bombed the airport of Kano in the northernmost region of Nigeria.

The separatist radio station affirmed that the federal forces were withdrawing all along the Nsukka front and heading toward the city of Mokurdi, where their base of operations against Biafra is located.

At the same time, the Lagos authorities established a curfew in practically the whole western region of Nigeria, especially along the border with the west-central region whose troops joined the Biafra forces.

In an obvious attempt to refute a Lagos radio report, the radio station of Enugu announced that five cities in the western region of Nigeria are in the hands of the Biafra troops.

Meanwhile, the federal government of Nigeria reiterated its rejection of the African Unity Organization's (OUA) attempt to settle the country's internal conflict.

At the same time, the radio of the secessionist region of Biafra reported that the military chief of the regime, Odumegwu Ojukwu, sent a message to the UN in which he requests "the inclusion of the Nigeria conflict on the agenda of the conference."

In the meantime, Nigerian federal troops seized the city of Ore, scene of fierce battles, according to an official report from Lagos. The source added that three other cities, Ogudu,

D'Igara and Ikpilla, fell in the hands of the federal troops.

Finally it adds that the forces of General Gowon are advancing from several points toward Enugu, capital of the secessionist province of Biafra.

RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA

The African National Congress of South Africa and the People's Union of Zimbabwe have jointly begun guerrilla activity against the racist governments of Rhodesia and South Africa.

In a statement issued in Lusaka, the two organizations confirmed the reports published by the Rhodesian press on the clashes which took place in mid-August between nationalist groups and seecurity forces of the Ian Smith regime.

A statement issued by the fascist regime in Salisbury reported armed clashes between the nationalist guerrillas and troops of the regular army.

In a commentary on the recent intensification of the guerrilla struggle, the Tanzanian daily paper THE NATIONALIST pointed out that the overthrow of Smith and his white racist supporters in Rhodesia is only a matter of time and determination to struggle.

Elsewhere, the racist regime of Ian Smith sent air force units to the region north of Bulawayo to support his troops in that area.

The Zimbabwe guerrillas taking part in the operations inflicted heavy casualties on the racist troops in spite of the fact that they are being supported there by South African units.

In the meantime, the representative of the African People's Union of Zimbabwe in the capital of Zambia reported that the Rhodesian Lieutenant Nicolas John Smith was killed somewhere in Central Rhodesia during a clash with African guerrillas.

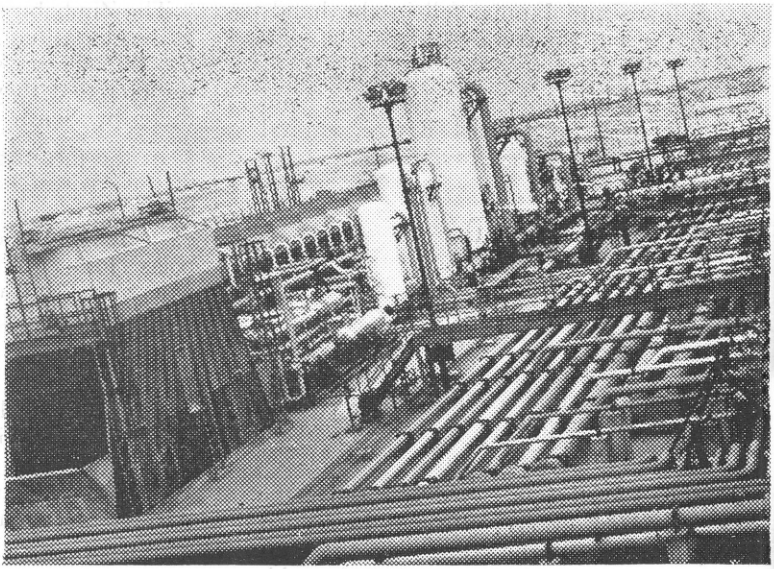
At the same time it was reported that Rhodesian jet fighter-bombers, South African helicopters and large contingents of infantry troops were used against the guerrillas operating in the Wankie region in the northwestern part of the country.

The situation became tense when it was announced that a large contingent of racist troops had been deployed north of Bulaway to hold back the guerrilla forces. Meanwhile there were reports of fierce battles between the Rhodesian and South African guerrillas and the Ian Smith troops near Victoria Falls in the northwestern region of Rhodesia.

At the same time, the Defense Council of Rhodesia met in an emergency session to discuss the situation in view of the advancement of the guerrilla movement.

A Rhodesian military spokesman announced that "the forces of the racist regime have not been able to stop the advance of the guerrilla detachments which are moving through the northwestern region towards the South."

ALGERIA



Coinciding with the Khartoum Conference, where it was agreed to resume the shipment of oil to Western powers, the Government of Algeria decreed the nationalization of the U.S. oil companies which operate in the country.

The decree includes the nationalization of the "Esso Standard Algerie", "Esso Africa", "Esso Shararienne", "Mobil Oil Nord Africaine", and "Mobil Oil France" oil companies. The last two refined and distributed hydrocarbon and its by-products.

"Esso" was third in the sale of gasoline, oil and other oil by-products, topped only by "Total" (French) and B. P. (British, already nationalized). At the same time, "Mobil" had a large share in the modern refinery in Algiers, considered to be one of the largest on the African continent.

The nationalized enterprises were turned over to the Algerian State through the National Hydrocarbon Enterprise (SONATRACH).

The decision of the Algerian government did not strictly come as a surprise if we bear in mind that following the Arab-Israeli conflict, Colonel Houari Boumedienne, president of the Council of the Revolution, signed a decree placing under State control the enterprises which now have been nationalized.

At the same time, at a recent meeting of the Committee for Orientation and Control of the National Enterprise of Mining Prospects and Exploitation, (SONAREM), the Minister of Industry and Energy, Belain Abdesselam, hinted at the fact that Algeria would follow a policy of recuperating the nation's natural resources which are in foreign hands.

ASIA

ADEN

According to a report published by the colonial administration, the casualties in the armed clashes in Aden between the nationalist forces and the occupation troops amount to more than 329 dead and one thousand 604 wounded.

At the same time, in one of the most recent clashes, the Aden patriots seized the Kirish Villa and other areas in the vicinity.

The territories occupied by the liberation forces are located along the border with Saudi Arabia.

Meanwhile, the feudal Saudi Arabian regime sent the UN a note protesting against these actions in spite of the fact that in official statements it denied the reports that the nationalists had advanced.

A report from Aden revealed that the Aden nationalists opened mortar fire on the Palace of the British Governor in Aden.

One of the shells fell near a yacht. A number of vessels docked nearby were quickly moved.

On the other hand, the British troops began to be withdrawn from that protectorate last September, according to an official announcement. The gradual withdrawal will preceed the formal granting of independence on January 9, 1968. Provisions have been made for a British force to remain in Aden even after that date.

At the same time, the provisional president of the Federation of Southern Arabia, Minister Sheik Ali Mussaid al Babakri, asked the army of the federation to take over the government of the 17 semi-autonomous states which make it up.

Al Babakri, who replaced the late Sheik Ali Atif Al Kaladi, made this announcement after learning that the guerrillas of the Liberation Front of Occupied Southern Yemen, FLOSY, had seized power in the sultanates of lower Yefai and Fadhli.

Meanwhile, the president of the so-called Supreme Council of the Federation of Southern Arabia, Sheik Ali Atif Al Kalidi, was arrested by nationalist commando units in Jaar, capital of the sultanate of Lower Yefai.

Minister Sheik Ali Musaid Al Babakri, who released the news, added that all administrative agencies of the federation —a structure imposed by the British authorities and which has been rejected by the Aden leaders— also fell into the hands of the commandos.

The recent events reveal that FLOSY has launched a large-scale operation aimed at overthrowing the feudal lords, Great Britain's allies in Southern Arabia, and assuming full control of the sultanates as has already happened in Lower Yefai and Fadhli.

On the other hand, Sheik Ali Musaid Babakri, provisional president of the Federal Council which Great Britain

has set up in its zone of protectorates, said, "If the army does not take control of the situation, the government of the Federation of Southern Arabia will have to resign".

He went on to say that "A revolution of the people has taken place in Southern Arabia against which there is nothing we can do."

He confirmed the report that the president of the supreme council had been kidnapped by nationalist commando units and that all administrative agencies of the "Federation" had fallen into the hands of the patriots.

He also admitted that his resignation is a result of the armed forces' refusal to seize power "at a time when the nationalists control most of the states in the so-called Federation of Southern Arabia."

From London, Ali Hussein Bayumi, the "Federation's" Minister of Information, stated that "the initiative taken by Ali Babakri is illegal."

In Aden, the strike called by FLOSY paralyzed the capital, while the Aden patriots stepped up their military actions against the occupation troops.

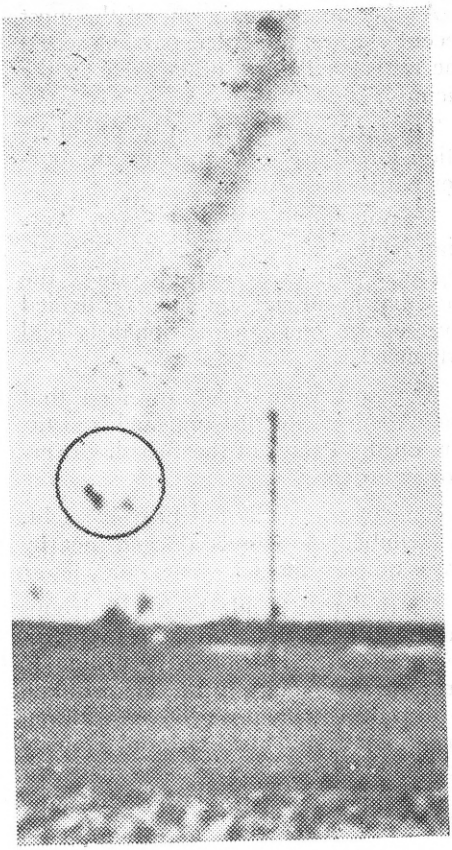
VIET NAM

The existence of a plan of mass annihilation and the terrorist nature of the U.S. bombing of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam were proven by the attacks last August on Hanoi.

One of the targets attacked by the U.S. planes was the Hoang Khien hospital in downtown Hanoi. Two were killed —a doctor and his assistant— and a large number of employees and patients were wounded.

The other target was several blocks of homes which were destroyed in the Hai Ba Quat area. An undetermined number of victims were trapped under the debris there. Homes, businesses and drug stores —according to reports— were hit by the bombs. A similar scene could be viewed in the towns of Phu Ly, only 30 kilometers from Hanoi, Thai Nguyen, in Viet Bac and Thanh Hoa on the outskirts of the fourth zone.

Meanwhile, President Ho Chi Minh congratulated the defenders of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam's air space for having shot down 22 planes in only three days in August, and the



people are enthusiastically celebrating this victory. In the next few days the losses of the enemy Air Force continued to increase as they tried to bomb the suburbs of Hanoi again.

Meanwhile, the Liberation Armed Forces launched a series of attacks against U. S. positions, the first one on the helicopter base on Marble Mountain, near Da Nang, where some fifteen 140 mm rockets fell on the helicopters' landing area and the barracks. This brought the losses of U.S. and Saigon troops up to more than 40.

Another major attack with mortars, heavy artillery and 140 mm rockets took place against the U.S. marine base in Dong Ha, 12 kilometers south of the demilitarized zone.

These attacks followed those launched against the bases of Can Tho, in the Mekong River Delta, installations in Hue, Thua Thien province, and Hyi An, in Quang Nam province.

The following attacks were made in a series of eight coordinated attacks against the U.S. marine supply routes in a 36 -kilometer area around Da Nang as a continuation of the offensive launched by the Liberation Armed Forces with devastating bombardments of the U.S. bases south of the demilitarized zone.

A spokesman for the U.S. military command reported that seven of these attacks were aimed at bridges on National Highway No. 1 and the eight against a railroad bridge located only 6 kilometers from the base at Da Nang.

A ninth bridge was atttacked to the south in the vicinity of Saigon near the city of Phong Hiep on the Mekong River Delta. From the city of Quang Nghai, capital of the province of the same name, it was reported that the Liberation Armed Forces attacked that city and freed 12 hundred political prisoners held in regional jail. The attacks took place under cover of heavy mortar fire.

The Liberation Armed Forces also ambushed a battalion of the 25th U.S. Infantry Division, only 22 kilometers from Saigon. They inflicted 50 casualties on it, including 10 dead, and shot down four planes.

According to the U.S. version, a patrol of the 25th Division stationed in Cu-Chi, which was carrying out a mop-up operation in the rural areas near Saigon, made contact with the Liberation Armed Forces.

From New York it was reported that in a letter to the editor of the U.S. magazine "Newsweek" a reader named John D. Landstreet had this to say about a report entitled "Operation Dragnet" which appeared in a July issue of the weekly: "I feel terribly ashamed of the fact that my country could support or allow such brutalities, threats and tortures as those applied by our allies to "Vietcong" suspects and their supporters among the villagers of Kim Giao."

INDONESIA

Some 3,000 students marched through the main streets of Djakarta in protest against "corruption and militarism."

The demonstrators carried a platform on which a group of students, in costume and carrying posters, depicted corrupt officers and the present cabinet of the Indonesian military regime.

According to a government spokesman, troops of the Djakarta regime were sent to the West Borneo region to repress the movement of the Indonesian guerrilla groups which have begun to operate in that area.

At the same time, the press in the Indonesian capital reported that the military troops were airlifted to West Borneo where the guerrillas attacked an air base near the border with Malaysia.

The official news agency "Antara" reported that an army batallion had arrived in Pontianak, capital of Borneo, to "reinforce the units stationed there which are taking part in joint actions in that region."

An announcement made by the military regime of General Suharto reported the arrest of 117 members of the Communist Party and other revolutionary and progressive organizations of West Java.

According to reports from that region, airborne units of General Suharto sent to Surabaya province clashed with marines who support former president Sukarno.

Meanwhile, the head of the military garrison in Djakarta, Col. Kamal Nasserie, reported that 60 persons of Chinese origen were arrested and charged with carrying on "communist activities" and with "operating through certain travel agencies set up in Djakarta."

CAMBODIA

In a release, the Cambodian Ministry of Information state that "the government of Cambodia categorically rejects the charges against the neutrality of this country made by the Minister of Defense in Saigon, Cao Van Vien."

At the same time, a military court in Phom Penn sentenced to death the Saigon regime spy, Le Van Hoang, captured recently by the Cambodian security corps.

Le Van Hoang, dressed in the uniform of the South Vietnam Liberation Army, entered Cambodian territory through Komponkehan province to carry out espionage activities.

A Cambodian spokesman also said that six women and two children were killed during an attack made by U.S. and Saigon troops against two advance posts.

KOREA

In August, an undetermined number of North Korean border guards were killed and several military vehicles were destroyed as the result of another brutal aggression carried out by the U.S. occupation troops against the security personnel of Democratic Korea in the demilitarized zone.

Elsewhere, Seul radio announced that forces belonging to the U.S. 8th Army will begin military maneuvers with the launching of guided missiles on the southwestern coast of South Korea.

LAOS

The Laotian patriotic forces participated in 145 clashes during the months of July and August and killed one thousand 701 enemy soldiers, according to an announcement made by a spokesman for the Supreme Command of the People's Liberation Army of Laos.

Meanwhile, the Central Committee of Neo Lao Haksat issued a statement protesting against the U. S. government's decision to send an additional 45 thousand troops to South Vietnam and against the bombing of Hanoi and other cities in the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

The Central Committee of the Neo Lao Haksat recently published an interesting pamphlet on the visit made to the liberated areas of Laos by an OSPAAAL delegation, headed by its Secretary General, Osmany Cienfuegos.

The publication of the pamphlet coincides with the new military victories achieved by the Laotian patriots in their just struggle against U.S.-puppet military aggression.

The pamphlet includes 17 photos of different events held in honor of the OSPAAAL delegation, which, as Sithone Commadam, vice-chairman of the Neo Lao Haksat Central Committee, said, arrived in Laos during difficult days for the country due to the intensification of the military aggression of U.S. imperialism to bring the Laotian patriots the warmth and solidarity of two thousand 500 million men and women of Africa, Asia and Latin America.

It also carries the statements of Osmany Cienfuegos who said in the speech he gave in Sam Neua that the heroic struggle of the Laotian people is a valuable and direct contribution to the struggle of the peoples of the world against imperialism headed by U.S. imperialism.

The pamphlet reveals the high spirit of internationalism of the Laotian people by including the resolution adopted at the meeting which initiated in Laos the Week of Tri-Continental Solidarity with the People of Vietnam, as well as excerpts from the Resolution on Laos adopted at the First Solidarity Conference of the Peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America, held in Havana from January 3 to 12, 1966.

LATIN AMERICA

HAITI

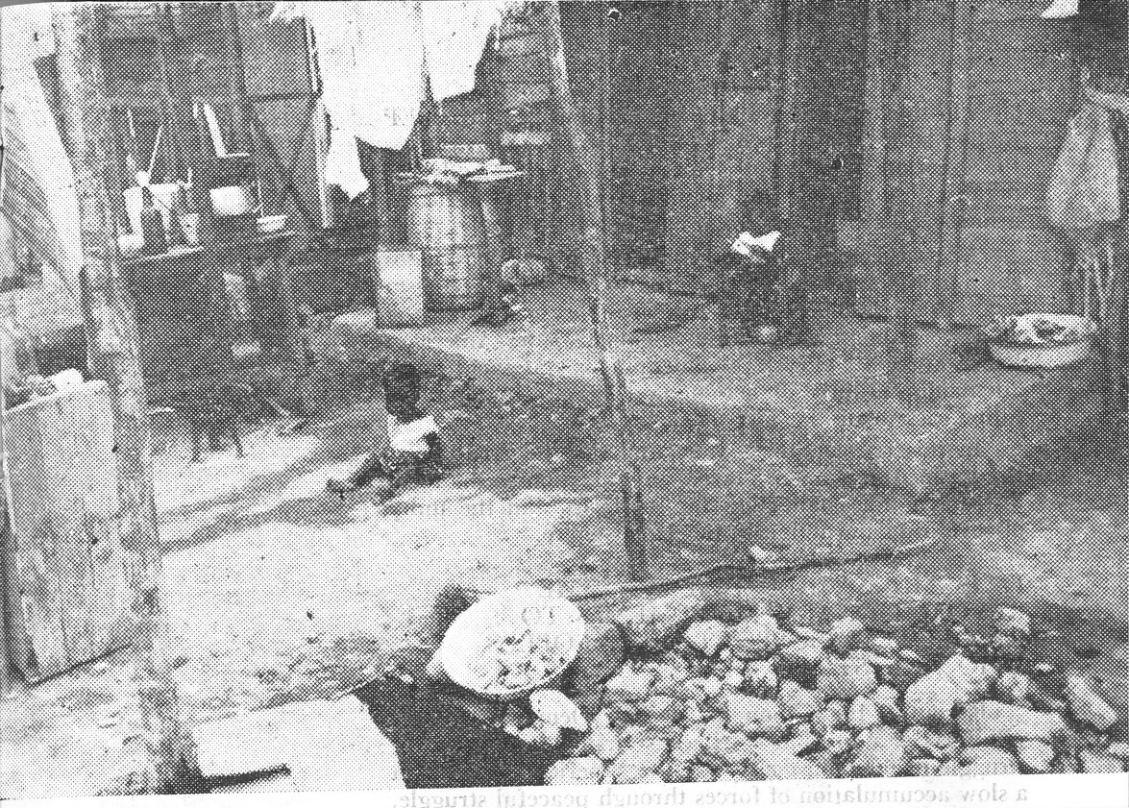
In a statement entitled "Without the armed struggle the people of Haiti will not be able to break their chains", the Central Committee of the Parti D'Entente Populaire (PEP) pointed out that the existing confusion within the Party regarding strategy and tactics has even led to the possibility of considering the use of a peaceful struggle on certain occasions. This confusion, the statement adds, falsified the Party's analysis and paved the way for the penetration of certain purely opportunistic conceptions of the Left and the Right.

In a more recent analysis made by the Central Committee of the PEP, the conclusion was reached that under the particular conditions existing in Haiti the revolutionaries have no other alternative than to take the path of armed struggle to defeat tyranny and imperialism, and to march forward toward a new independence and socialism.

The Central Committee of the PEP also resolved that "the anti-dictatorial movement must fight, weapons in hand, the State apparatus which supports the dictatorship: "The destruction of the imperialist State is one of the fundamental tasks of the revolution in its struggle for new independence."

"The Leninist attitude", the statement points out, "consists of preparing ourselves for all the forms of struggle that each situation calls for. However, within our Party, they talked a lot 'about all forms of struggle', but in practice, the armed struggle was not being organized."

"But under the present conditions in Haiti and in the Hemisphere, it is now clear that the armed struggle will be the decisive form of revolutionary struggle in our country. Without armed struggle, our people will not be able to break their chains and achieve national liberation."



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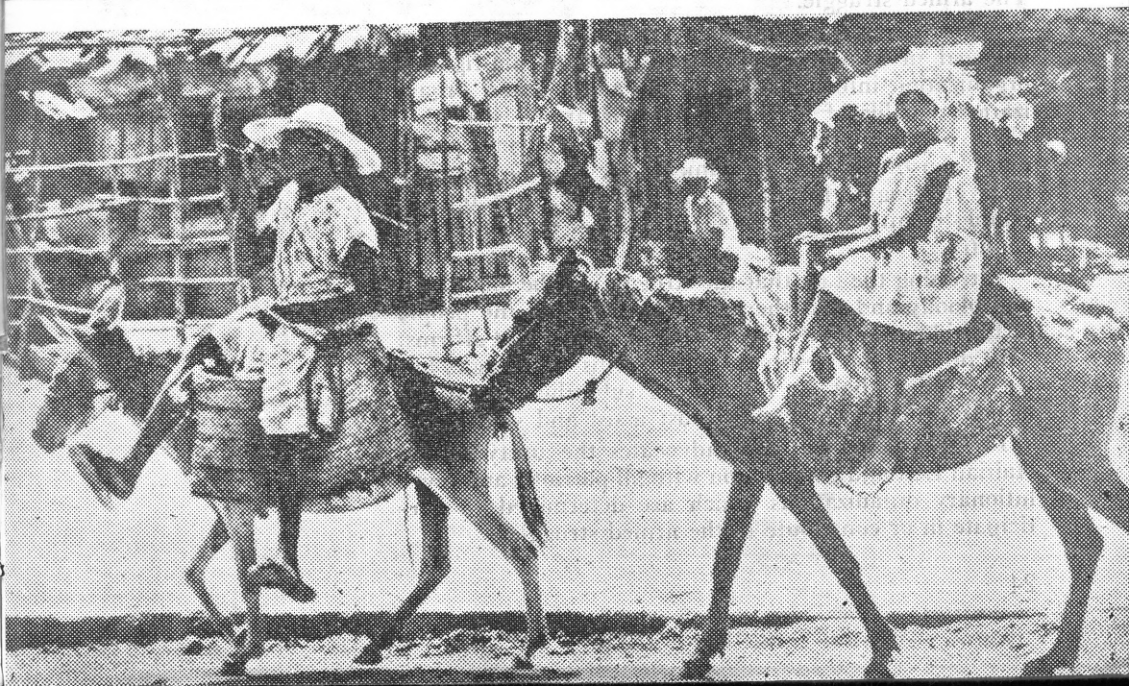


The document of the Central Committee of the PEP further states that the concept of a people's war implies the creation of a people's army and recommends the organization of guerrillas in rural areas as the principal arm together with the urban commandos.

The statement also refers to the intensification of the reactionary efforts made by Yankee imperialism against the peoples of Latin America, such as the abortive attempt to create a so-called "Inter-American Peace Force". "This development", the statement adds, "demands a unity of action on the part of all revolutionaries in the Hemisphere."

In this respect, the statement hails the creation of the Latin American Solidarity Organization as the ideal instrument for channeling the solidarity and the unity of revolutionary action in the Hemisphere.

IT IS THE SACRED DUTY OF THE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENTS TO RESOLUTELY SUPPORT THE PEOPLES WHO ARE STRUGGLING

Recently, the Union of Haitian Democrats Party (PUDH) stated that during its first eleven years of struggle it has paid dearly for the experience gained in a slow accumulation of forces through peaceful struggle, efforts, the PUDH added, that were not organized on the basis of a realistic perspective for the seizing of Power through the essential and main form of struggle: The armed struggle.

"Our Party —the statement continues— is at present engaged in a process of transforming a non-fighting organization into a solid political and military organization capable of leading a popular armed struggle". "The popular armed struggle", the document points out, "constitutes the fundamental, essential, principal form of struggle for the seizing of power and for the establishment of a national democratic regime in our country."

Stressing the fact that the struggle will be long, hard and bloody and that the revolutionaries and the people of Haiti have no other alternative, the statement affirms: "We do not under-estimate other forms of struggle, but we consider that they must be subordinated to the armed struggle which they must assist and strenthen."

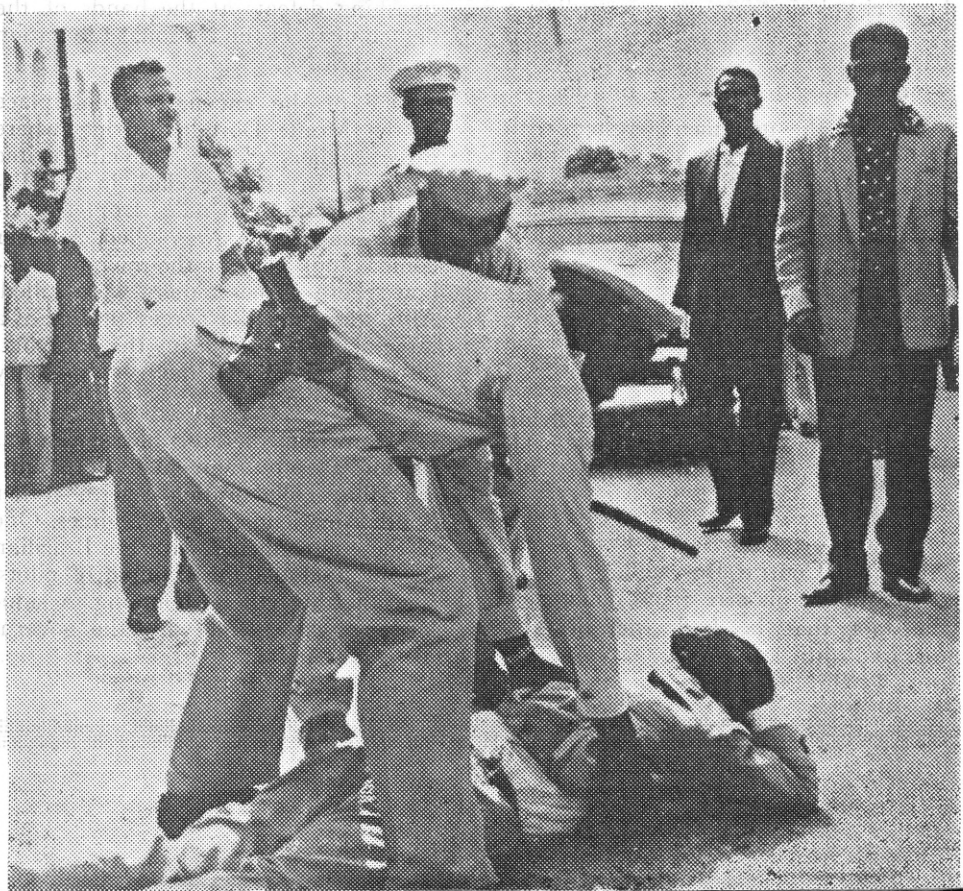
PUDH's statement also advocates the unity of the Haitian Left and cooperation with all patriotic and revolutionary organizations which are determined to participate in or contribute to the armed struggle.

"For us, that will be the best way to prove our militant solidarity with the people who are struggling against imperialism under the slogan of the incomparable anti-imperialist and internationalist fighter, Major Che Guevara, who called for the opening up of two, three, or more Viet Nams", the document states.

Imperialist aggressiveness necessitates the planning of a global strategy of the revolutionary movements throughout the world.

"Today more than ever solidarity, a complete, concrete, militant, resolute solidarity with the struggles of the peoples, is the sacred duty of all revolutionary movements".

In conclusion, the PUDH statement reiterates that, on a continental scale in Latin America, the fundamental, essential and principal form of struggle is the armed struggle and that on this the people must base their global strategy against imperialism.



BOLIVIA

The Bolivian regime continued its campaign of threats against the young French writer and journalist, Regis Debray.

Even though a so-called trial is being held in the town of Camiri, it was the head of the regime himself, General Barrientos, who confirmed the hypocritical nature of the trial when he announced that "the full weight of the law" will fall on the outstanding French writer.

This statement by dictator Barrientos was followed by the proposal of a deputy collaborating with the regime, who proposed the re-establishment of the death sentence in the country. At the same time, official sources have been circulating a rumor regarding a possible guerrilla attack on the prison where Debray is being held which would justify his possible murder.

One of the newsmen arrested with Debray and later released, the Chilean George Andrew Roth, issued the warning in Santiago de Chile that the life of the young French intellectual is in serious danger".

Roth said that all the prisoners were mistreated and brutally beaten. "We were physically and mentally tortured", he said.

He also revealed that "the Bolivian militarists have threatened to murder Debray, regardless of the result of the trial".

At a press conference, Debray accused the Central Inteligence Agency of organizing his arrest and denounced the fact that he had been brutally tortured until losing consciousness.

Meanwhile the Bolivian regime, unable to control the advance of the guerrillas, began a wave of repression against the people. According to a report appearing in the newspaper, "El Diario de la Paz", the repressive corps are making mass arrests, holding "any person suspected of collaborating or sympathizing with the guerrillas or the armed struggle".

At the same time, the military authorities cruelly abuse the prisoners, using all the aid provided by the Pentagon and neighboring governments.

Numerous armed clashes have occurred during the past month of August in various districts of the Bolivian Southeast and the army has suffered smashing defeats at the hands of the detachments of the National Liberation Army (ELN).

One of the encounters took place in the Monte Dorado district, where three soldiers of the Bolivian regime perished. In another clash in the Taperillas district, 18 miles from Ñancahuazú, one soldiers was killed. Another combat took place in the town of Lamboy where three soldiers were killed. Also, the guerrilla forces occupied a large landed estate in the Camotal district and carried out revolutionary expropriations.

Meanwhile, dictator Barrientos was signing a secret agreement for "anti-guerrilla collaboration" with other South American military regimes. One of these agreements, with the Brazilian regime, includes the training of pilots, specialists in napalm bombing. A similar one was signed with the government of Panama.

PARAGUAY

The bulletin of the Paraguayan National Committee of Tricontinental Solidarity, which carries information on the First Congress of the Paraguayan National Committee of Solidarity, is being circulated widely in Paraguay.

At this Congress, delegates approved a series of important resolutions expressing their solidarity with Cuba, Viet Nam, Bolivia, and denouncing the illegal arrest and imprisonment of the French journalist and writer, Regis Debray.

In reference to Cuba, the Resolution states that the Paraguayan people reiterate their active solidarity with the Heroic Island which is uncompromisingly defending its right to self-determination and national sovereignty.

The document condemns Yankee imperialism's aggressions against the Cuban Revolution, the maintenance on the Yankee Guantánamo Naval Base on territory usurped from Cuba and the new plans of aggression concocted by Washington in connivance with the Venezuelan puppet regime.

In conclusion, it calls on all the peoples of Latin America to defend Cuba, thereby defending their own victorious future.

The Resolution regarding Viet Nam expresses active and fraternal solidarity with the heroic struggle of the Vietnamese people against Yankee imperialism and the defense of the sacred right of national sovereignty and independence.

The Committee demands a strict compliance with the points set forth by the Vietnamese patriots as a basis for the solution of a conflict provoked by Yankee military intervention in Viet Nam.

The Resolution regarding Bolivia points out that the right of self-determination of the peoples implies that their armed guerrilla struggle is sacred and untouchable and that a people has the legitimate right to struggle when it is subjugated, expoliated and subjected to the most cruel conditions of poverty, backwardness and national oppression. It also denounces the criminal implications of the recent interview between Stroessner and Barrientos.

In regard to Regis Debray and his fellow newsmen illegally arrested in Bolivia, the Congress expresses its most absolute solidarity with these new victims of Barrientos, who were arrested in the course of a news mission.

"The valuable contribution Regis Debray has made to contemporary ideas on the liberation struggle of the peoples of Latin America —the statement points out— makes him even more deserving of our fraternal solidarity. Therefore, we demand his immediate release and that of his fellow newsmen.

At the same time, the Paraguayan National Committee of Tricontinental Solidarity demands the release of hundreds of political prisoners in the country who —not excluding women— have been brutally tortured.

HONDURAS

A statement circulating in various capitals of Latin America denounced the tragic conditions under which hundreds of political prisoners in Honduras are living. Many of them were arrested more than a year ago and as yet the Honduran military regime has not permitted them to seek the legal counsel which the Constitution guarantees them.

The tragedy of the political prisoners has triggered a powerful mass movement in Honduras with the participation of workers, students and people in general.

Recently, the students of the Autonomous University of Honduras published a list of the names of dozens of political prisoners.

THE UNITED STATES

The U.S. racists continue their brutal repressive campaign against the Afro-American population and their revolutionary leaders, only to beat their heads against the firm determination of the Negroes to struggle, weapons in hand, for their liberation.

This campaign included the illegal arrest of Rap Brown, president of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), and George Ware, leader of that Afro-American revolutionary organization.

At the same time, the U. S. State Department cancelled the passports of Ware and Stokely Carmichael for having violated a provision which prohibits the visits to Cuba of non-authorized American citizens.

Meanwhile, Carmichael travelled to the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam where he met wtih high officials of the North Vietnamese government.

In New York, Rap Brown presided over a meeting held under the slogan of: "Viet Nam and the black United States". At the closing speech, the president of SNCC stated that "the Negroes are ready to risk any danger, including death, to win complete freedom in the United States", and he called on the oppressed white and Negro people to work together for "a radical reform which will wipe out the present political structure in the country".

"Weapons in hand, the whites should join the Negroes in the struggle for their own liberation", Brown added.

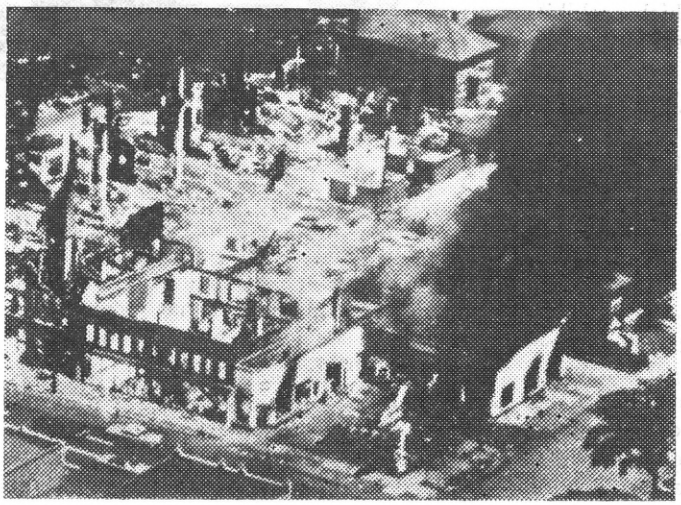
SNCC and the Congress for Racial Equally (CORE) expressed their moral support and offered material aid to the African National Congress of South Africa, which has begun the guerrilla struggle for the liberation of that country.

The measures adopted by SNCC and CORE include the boycott of "General Motors" automobiles, in reprisal against the active participation

of this U.S. consortium in the exploitation of the Negro people in South Africa.

In Milwaukee, the authorities decreed a "state of emergency" following new clashes between the Negro population and police agents.

In Detroit, three policemen and a national guardsman were sentenced to death by a court made up of Negro citizens. The four repressive agents were accused of murdering three Negroes during the recent disturbances in that city.



PUERTO RICO

New and serious incidents took place on the Puerto Rican island of Vieques, where for three straight days the local population repelled the depredations of hundreds of drunken U.S. marines.

The battle that took place in Vieques dramatizes the situation of its Puerto Rican inhabitants, virtually encircled by U. S. military and naval bases which cover 78 percent of the 43 kilometers of that island.

The population of Vieques has been deprived of its arable land to such an extent that they now have to import food. They have had to put up with the depredations of the U. S. Marines while their island has been turned into a training field for U. S. adventures against other brother countries in the continent such as Cuba.

"I refuse to take part in an unjust, illegal, immoral and racist war against the people of Viet Nam", said Rene Marcano, a young Puerto Rican, in a handbill distributed in New York.

Marcano was inducted into the army by his draft board in Whitehall, in New York city, in reprisal for his pacifist activities.

Upon reporting to his Recruiting Center, Marcano began to distribute the handbills with his signature.

The document states that to collaborate with the Yankee invaders in Viet Nam would be like betraying Puerto Rico, a victim of a similar invasion.

"The Vietnamese, —he added— like all victims of imperialism, are our brothers. Their struggle against Yankee tyranny is also our struggle".

The young Puerto Rican concludes his appeal with the following words:

"Viet Nam for the Vietnamese!"

"Puerto Rico for the Puerto Ricans!"

"Yankees, get out of Viet Nam right now!"

The Pro-Referendum Committee of Westside New York announced it had the signatures of 20 thousand persons on a document asking for Yankee withdrawal from Viet Nam.

According to a spokesman for that organization, the majority of the signers are workers living in the slums of New York where the army recruits many young men to send to Viet Nam as cannon fodder. The Committee has set itself a goal of 100 thousand signatures.

THE REPATRIATON AGREEMENT OF THE KOREAN CITIZENS IN JAPAN SHOULD BE EXITENDED UNCONDITIONALLY

It is a well-known fact that the repatriation of the Korean citizens in Japan to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has been going on normally for eight years, with the active support of the Japanese people and the peoples throughout the world, ever since the repatriation agreement of Korean citizens in Japan was concluded in August, 1959.

The repatriation of Korean citizens was a brilliant victory of the policy of brotherly love of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the Republic led by Comrade Kim Il Sung, of the constant struggle of the Korean compatriots in Japan —whose fate completely depends upon their motherland and its leader, Comrade Kim Il Sung—, and of the support and encouragement of the people of all walks of life in Japan, as well as world public opinion.

So far, about 88,000 compatriots in Japan have returned to the bosom of their motherland —the D.P.R.K.— and are now living a hopeful life, with work and schooling guaranteed according to their talent and ability.

But the Japanese government, openly maneuvering to wreck the humanitarian repatriation operation of the Korean citizens in Japan, after signing the criminal "South Korea-Japan Treaty", decided unilaterally to terminate the repatriation agreement as of November 12 of this year.

This is an arbitrary act that tramples upon the international agreement and is contrary to the basic spirit of the repatriation agreement.

The 600,000 Korean citizens were taken to Japan by force in the past by the Japanese imperialists and have suffered all kinds of exploitation and repression.

Since Japan was defeated and Korea liberated on August 15, 1945, they have been excluded from all legal protection, have undergone national discrimination, and were prevented by the Japanese authorities from returning to their motherland.

The Korean citizens in Japan were able to return home as of December, 1959, under the present repatriation agreement.

The agreement made it possible to realize the wishes of the Korean citizens in Japan who hoped to return to their own country, on the basis of the principle of free choice of residence and the principles of the Red Cross.

It is clearly stated in the present repatriation agreement that it should be continued annually, as long as there is a Korean citizen in Japan who wants to return home.

Today, there are many Korean citizens in Japan who want to go back to their homeland and, according to gross estimates, over 10,000 have applied for repatriation before the Japanese authorities. Therefore, the present repatriation agreement must also be extended unconditionally this year.

The Japanese authorities, however, are maneuvering to terminate the agreement unilaterally and without any reason.

In order to justify their criminal steps, the Japanese authorities are resorting to trickery, under the pretense that there will be another way for the repatriation after the termination of the present agreement.

It is an intolerable mockery of justice-loving world public opinion to terminate the present repatriation agreement —the rationality and justice of which have been proved through the repatriation operation in the last eight years— and to talk about adopting a new method.

To return home is the sacred and inviolable right of the Korean citizens in Japan who are worthy overseas citizens of the D.P.R.K., a right that can not be infringed on by anyone, and which is firmly guaranteed by international law and international practice.

In the light of the original purpose of the repatriation operation, this agreement must be extended without amendments as long as there are people who wish to return home. Furthermore, the Japanese authorities cannot escape their responsibility in guaranteeing all the democratic national rights of the Korean citizens in Japan, including their right to repatriation.

The present repatriation agreement is a bilateral agreement and it stipulates that neither of the two sides can terminate it unilaterally.

The Japanese authorities are running amuck to terminate the repatriation agreement in spite of the strong protests of the peoples of Korea and Japan and the justice-loving peoples of the world. They are trying to pave the way for another aggression against South Korea by faithfully serving the U.S. policy of aggression and war, and laying a new foundation for political bargaining with the Park Chung Hee clique.

The infamous acts of the Japanese authorities in terminating the present repatriation agreement unilaterally and in violating the repatriation operation are naked manifestations of their hostile policy toward the Government of the D.P.R.K., an outrageous infringement on the democratic national rights of the Korean citizens in Japan and a challenge to the Japanese people and the peoples of the world.

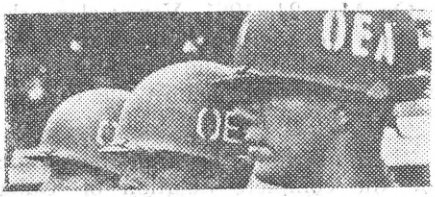
This has been made clear by the fact that the Japanese authorities, at a time when the U.S. imperialists are busily engaged in plotting a new war in Koreea, are maneuvering to violate the repatriation operation of the Korean compatriots in Japan, to trample upon all their national rights —including the right to democratic national education— and are even harboring wicked plans to disorganize the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the peoples will never permit the criminal maneuvering of the Japanese authorities, who intend to use the repatriation operation for their political ends.

Nor will they allow the illegal acts of the Japanese authorities to terminate unilaterally the present repatriation agreement, and they will strongly demand that the repatriation agreement be extended unconditionally.

The Korean citizens in Japan are happy and honored to have Comrade Kim Il Sung, the respected leader of forty million Koreans, who is deeply concerned about them and who is leading the Korean people to victory. Nothing can prevent their repatriation to the Republic, where their leader is.

once again the OAS



From the 22nd to the 24th of September, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the member countries of the Organization of American States (OAS) will meet in Washington to reach a decision on the accusation made by the Venezuelan regime of Raul Leoni against the Cuban Revolutionary Government for the so-called "repeated acts of Cuban intervention and aggression".

In general it is believed that the results of the new Venezuelan maneuver will only be an "energetic statement" against the Cuban government and a few "recommendations" to the other regimes in the hemisphere and the nations that still have relations with Cuba.

The alternative to the above —the intensification of the anti-Cuban measures approved during the Ninth Conference of Heads of State in Washington in July, 1964— would be direct military action against Cuba.

Those who think that "the only thing that can be expected from the meeting is an increase in economic pressure against Cuba" base their judgement on the fact that the conference has been called on the basis of Articles 39 and 40 of the OAS Charter and that the agenda of the discussions will be the so-called eleven points proposed by the Caracas regime.

Six of these points constitute a summary of the violent attacks made against the Cuban people by Venezuelan Ambassador, Pedro París Montesinos.

The five remaining points contain the recommendations made by the so-called Advisory Commission for Security of the OAS which studied the "acts of subversion of the Cuban regime".

Bascially, said points recommend the accusation and condemnation of the Revolutionary Government of Cuba for "its repeated acts of intervention and aggression against Venezuela", the requesting of "co-operation" from non-American countries which still have relations with Cuba and the intensification of collective and individual repressive measures against the Cuban Revolution.

The so-called Cuban brief in the OAS, according to the Venezuelan authorities, is based on the fact that various Cubans heading guerrilla forces landed on a beach in the eastern part of the country and that Cuba had been involved in the death of Julio Irribarren Borges, ex-director of social insurance and brother of the Venezuelan chancellor.

The history of the anti-Cuban maneuver, sponsored by the Government of the United States, can be summarized as follows:

On May 24, 1961, Venezuelan asked that the Advisory Body of the OAS meet immediately and urgently consider its accusation against the Revolutionary Government of Cuba.

"I think that the time has come for the complete isolation of Cuba in order to counteract its dangerousness", stated Pedro París Montesinos, Venezuelan representative to the OAS. Meanwhile, the United States from the very first announced its support for the Venezuelan proposal.

On June 5, the Advisory Body of the OAS met and agreed to name a nine-member committee (Venezuela, Uruguay, Colombia, Perú, Bolivia, the United States, Argentina, Trinidad-Tobago and Guatemala) to draw up the agenda, date and place for a meeting of Heads of State.

In response to the proposals of the Committee and later to a series of collective and bilateral meetings, the Council called a meeting of the Advisory Body in Washington for the 19th of June.

The 12th Consultative Meeting of Chancellors began on the 19th of June —but without Chancellors. The Foreign Affairs Ministers delegated their representation to their respective ambassadors or appointed special delegates. The first and only agreement reached was the naming of an Investigating Commission which would travel to Venezuela to substantiate the Venezuelan accusation. Consequently, the consultative meeting postponed the adoption of measures until the commission could hand in the corresponding report.

The Investigating Commission, made up of representatives of the U.S., the Dominican Republic, Perú, Colombia and Costa Rica, travelled to Caracas on the 23rd of June and after remaining in Venezuela for 3 days returned to Washington.

Four days later, the U.N. Security Council distributed the report from the General Secretariat of the OAS announcing the creation of the abovementioned Investigating Commission.

This report will be the one that the foreign ministers of the OAS will have in their hands when the Consultative Meeting begins from the 22nd to the 24th of September which, it is said, the U.S. Secretary of State, Dean Rusk, will attend. The presence of Rusk was interpreted as a pressure on the part of the U.S. to "raise" the level of the Conference.

Previously, August 10th had been set for the opening of the meeting. But out of the bureaucratic snarl that the prior meetings had gotten into, together with the confusion as to what effective measures to adopt against Cuba several proposals emerged, setting as of that moment the 22nd of September as the definite date.

A marked interest could be seen in all the proposals for the Consultative Meeting to be held at the end of the deliberations of the Conference of the Organization of Latin American Solidarity (OLAS) in Havana.

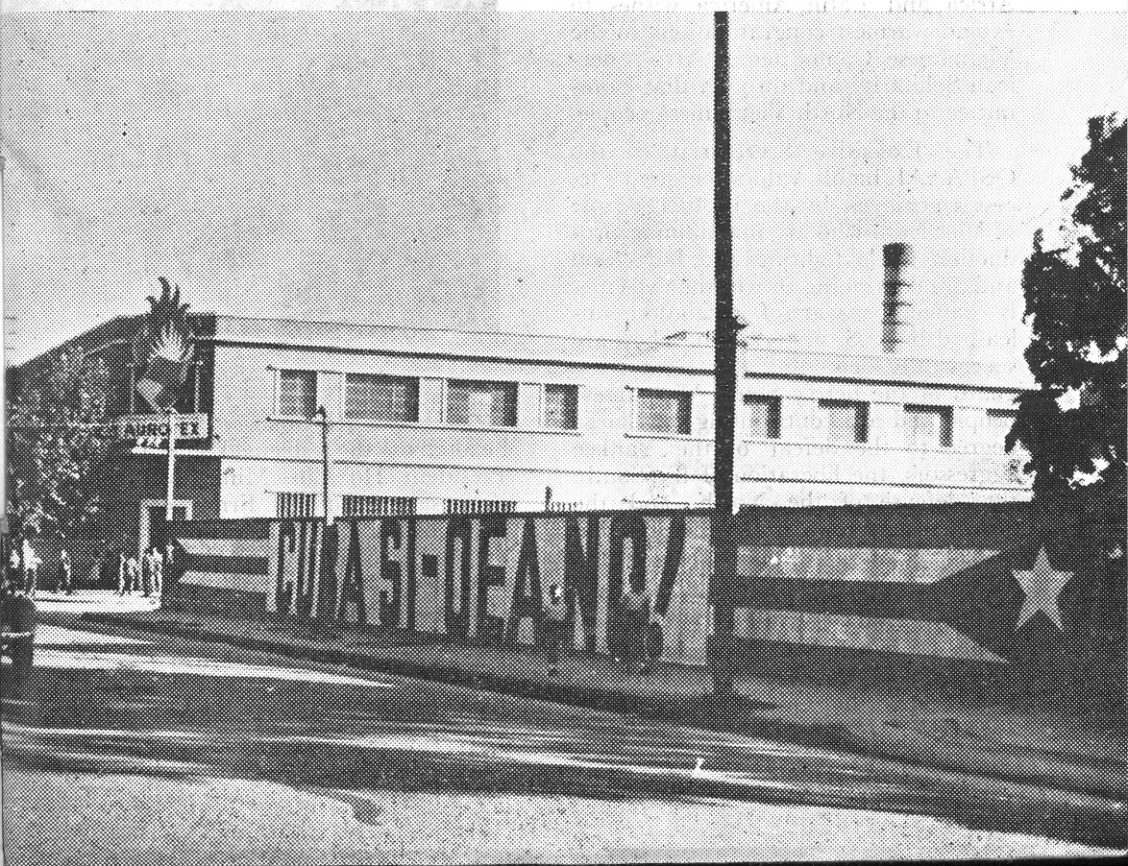
In the face of the noisy threats of aggression against Cuba that became apparent as the Venezuelan maneuver was slowly developing, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba responded with a statement.

The statement pointed out that in the face of the "hysterical campaign of violence, aggression and war" un-

leashed "by the lackey government of Venezuela, following the obvious instructions of its master in Washington, the Cuban people will redouble their defensive efforts without abandoning our hard but ever more successful work in the field of cultural, technical and economic development of our country, under the present conditions of economic blockade, and if necessary under the conditions of a total blockade, because at this point no force in the world can destroy our revolution". The CPC stated that "the question for the peoples is this: Either to capitulate to imperialism, or to resist and fight. To resist and fight in every period of history means taking the risks which resistance and struggle imply, as well as to capitulate simply means to capitulate".

"Our party and our people —it added— do not shun their responsability before the world nor will they shun combat, with its consequences and sacrifices in whatever form or whatever field that imperialism decides to wage it against us".

The First Secretary of the Central Committee of the C.P. of Cuba and Prime Minister of the Revolutionary Government, Major Fidel Castro, in his closing speech at the first Confereence of the OLAS clarified this readiness when he said that "this small island will be as a revolutionary cliff of granite against whose rocks all plots, all intrigues and aggression will be shattered. And atop this revolutionary cliff is a flag which reads "Our Country or Death! We will win! will forever wave."



APPEALS AND MESSAGES

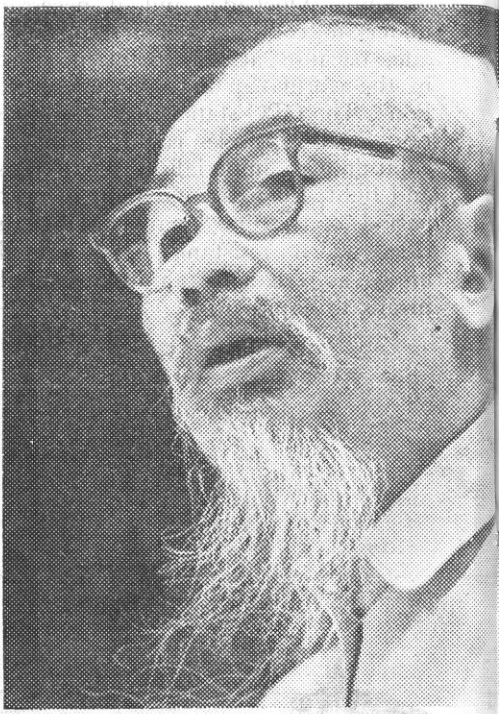
MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIT OF THE OSPAAAL TO THE VIETNAMESE COMMITTEE OF AFRO-ASIAN SOLIDARITY

HANOI

On the occasion of the XXII Anniversary of the founding of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the Executive Secretariat of the Organization of Solidarity with the Peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America wishes to extend warmest congratulations to the Vietnamese Committee of Afro-American Solidarity and through that Committee to the North Vietnamese people.

The Executive Secretariat of the OSPAAAL highly values the great successes achieved by the brother people of Viet Nam who are maintaining production while fighting and have won and are continuing to win the extremely dangerous war of escalation unleashed by U.S. imperialism. They are successfully defending the great rearguard of the heroic South Vietnamese people and are contributing to a large degree to the defeat of the Yankee aggressors, the liberation of the South, the defense of the North, and the advancement toward the reunification of Viet Nam.

On this occasion we express our hope and our conviction that the brother people of North Viet Nam, under the leadership of the Viet Nam Party of Labor and the Government of the



Democratic Republic of Viet Nam headed by the esteemed and beloved President Ho Chi Minh, will fulfill their sacred duty of firmly defending the Socialist North, liberating the South and advancing toward the reunification of the homeland of the 30 million citizens of Viet Nam.

Havana, September 2, 1967

Executive Secretariat of the OSPAAAL

SOLIDARITY WITH KIM CHIN SU

A statement released by Executive Secretariat of the OSPAAAL on September 2, 1967, denounced the fact that "on April 3 of the present year, Korean youth Kim Chin Su after having been compulsorily drafted by the U.S. Army and having been forced to participate in the war of aggression against the heroic people of Viet Nam, enduring all sorts of hardship and harsh treatment, requested political asylum from the Cuban Embassy in Japan."

"The request for political asylum made by young Kim Chin Su", the statement added, "is totally justified and reflects the growing consciousness of the people of South Korea, by refusing to serve U.S. imperialism as cannon fodder against Viet Nam.

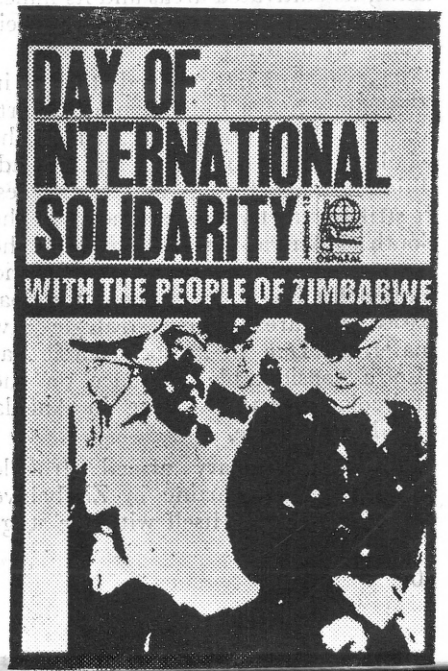
"However", the statement went on, "the Japanese government, instigated by Yankee imperialism, does not recognize the right of young Kim Chin Su to political asylum, and is planning to arrest him and hand him over to U.S. imperialism. This fact thoroughly demonstrates that the Sato government, which has turned Japan into a logistic base for the U.S. war of aggression against Viet Nam, participates more overtly each day in this criminal aggression".

In conclusion the statement of the Executive Secretariat of the OSPAAAL appeals to member organizations and all of the progressive forces of the world, to carry out effective actions which will force the Japanese authorities to recognize Kim Chin Su's right to asylum. At the same time it calls for increased solidarity with the people of Japan in their struggle against the reactionary Sato government and for the withdrawal of Yankee occupation troops.

APPEAL OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT OF THE OSPAAAL ON THE OCCASION OF THE DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE (SEPTEMBER 12)

The peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America will commemorate, on the forthcoming September 12, another anniversary of the proclamation of the National Rebellion of the People of Zimbabwe. But, this event has a special significance.

Revolutionary armed struggled has burst out in Zimbabwe. From Wankie and other regions of the Northwest, violent fighting has been reported between the rebel patriots and the repressive forces of the fascist Smith. In Bulawayo, and other zones, sabotages and attempts against the authorities are also reported. The Salisbury regime has decreed emergency measures and mobilized its troops as well as those of South Africa: a veritable panic has arisen among the settlers, mining companies and the top circles of the racist clique. Increasing uneasiness can be



detected also in Pretoria, London and Washington. The momentum of the armed actions of the revolutionaries in Zimbabwe, and their coordination with other liberation movements in South Africa are the direct causes of this situation.

The fascist regime of Ian Smith has kept itself in power during the past two years —in spite of the alleged "blockade" and the "serious measures" taken by the British Government, at which it laughs, and in spite of the solemn agreements adopted by the O.A.U., and the UNO, regarding this particular case. The Government and the monopolies of Great Britain, with the active collaboration of U.S. imperialism, have developed, supported and upheld and are now supporting and upholding the neocolonial and racist "melange" which makes up the so-called Government of South Rhodesia.

The concentration camps and "bantustans" in which the people of Zimbabwe have been confined —regardless of bitter resistance; the absolute despoiling of all its natural wealth, its lands, its cultivated areas and its mines, have not been able to prevent their rising up in arms.

The revolutionary armed struggle in Zimbabwe has a fundamental importance for the national liberation of the whole African continent, and in addition to this, for all of our peoples. It strikes directly the very heart of the South of Africa, where there exists the largest concentration of wealth and monopolist investments, their principal bases and areas, their strategic raw materials. Due to its location, it has also a considerable influence on the anti-colonial battle raging in Angola and Mozambique.

The revolutionary armed struggle which is today starting in Zimbabwe is destined to link itself with the struggle for liberation of all the other countries in such a strategic region; to achieve and develop an efficient coordination in the armed struggle and the efforts of all the revolutionary movements and organizations of these countries, for their final liberation.

It is because of this that the Executive Secretariat of the OSPAAAL believes that, at this time, the solidarity with the people of Zimbabwe takes on a meaning and a far-reaching projection, of much greater importance. Consequently, we wish to express our joy over the beginning of armed struggle in Zimbabwe, and we welcome the decision of the patriots of Zimbabwe to carry on until final victory the battle against the racist minority which oppresses them today, against colonialism, neocolonialism and imperialism.

The Executive Secretariat of the OSPAAAL, on the occasion of September 12, anniversary of the National Rebellion of the People of Zimbabwe, calls on all the member organizations and anti-imperialist forces to increase their militant solidarity and unstinted support for the patriots who are now giving battle in Zimbabwe, offering them all the material, moral, political and military assistance that they may require. We especially appeal to the progressive governments of Africa, so that they may continue giving all their help and facilities to the Zimbabwe patriots.

The Exeeutive Secretariat of the OSPAAAL expresses its firm support for the revolutionary cause of the people of Zimbabwe, and has full confidence in its final victory.

Havana, September 2, 1967

Executive Secretariat of the OSPAAAL

"This great humanity has said:

Enough! and has started to move forward"

APPEAL OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT OF THE OSPAAAL ON THE OCCASION OF THE DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO

(September 23).

On September 23, 1868, the Puerto Rican patriots took up arms against the Spanish colonial domination to which the Puerto Rican people were subjected at that time. On that occasion, the patriots in arms proclaimed the Republic, abolished slavery and began to adopt measures aimed at suppressing numerous social injustices.

With the invasion of Puerto Rico by United States troops on July 25, 1898, a new and more difficult struggle began for the Puerto Rican people who — from the very moment that the U.S. invading troops landed— put up resistance resolutely in order to shake off the yoke of the new imperialist master.

The United States has undertaken the destruction of the Puerto Rican nationality by means of the most brutal military, economic and cultural repression, setting into motion the whole apparatus of its imperialist might. The people of Puerto Rico, however, led by their Patriotic Vanguard, the Movement for Independence, have not only carried on their unwavering struggle for the defense of their very existence, but have also redoubled their efforts, by means of an intense mobilization to expel Yankee imperialism's invading troops from their sacred soil.

The most recent proof of the repulsion of the Puerto Ricans to the colonial regime imposed on the island by the United States, is the massive rejection of the plebiscite farce, carried out last July 23rd on orders from Washington's ruling circles, its main promoters.

The population census carried out by the U.S. government shows a total population of 1,700,000 people over 21 years of age. The electoral law grants the right to vote to every citizen over 21. The imperialist propaganda, when disclosing the election returns of the false plebiscite frustrated by the people, took good care not to disclose th adult population of the island, since only 707,313 people cast their ballots.

The people know that this not a legitimate consultation of the people's free will, but a Yankee imperialist maneuver to mask the colonial nature of their oppressing regime in Puerto Rico. A widespread campaign, aimed at unmasking the imperialist maneuver, was successfully launched by the

movement for Independence both inside and outside the Island, to such an extent that the false plebiscite has resulted in an unprecedented fiasco for the U.S. government.

Clear evidence of the repulse of the Puerto Rican people to the colonial regime has been revealed to the world by the recent clashes between the population of the Island of Vieques —which is part of the Puerto Rican territory— and the Yankee marines stationed at the gigantic U.S. naval base established there. The Vieques population demand the return of the land that was seized by the U.S. Navy.

The increasing struggle of the Puerto Rican youth against compulsory military draft has gained such impetus that the U.S. federal courts have been forced to dismiss —at their own initiative— all actions against the thousands of young men who have refused to join the U.S. armed forces and be a party to the criminal aggression against the heroic people of Viet Nam.

The Executive Secretariat of the OSPAAAL condemns vigorously the colonial opression and the crimes to which the Puerto Rican people are subjected by Yankee imperialism and calls on all the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America to redouble their solidarity with the people of Puerto Rico on the occasion of the celebration on September 23, of the Day of Solidarity with their struggle for independence so that— from the farthest corners of the planet— millions of voices will be raised on that date, demand a Puerto Rico free from colonial oppression.

Executive Secretariat of the OSPAAAL
Havana, September 2, 1967.

"THIS GREAT HUMANITY HAS SAID: ENOUGH! AND HAS STARTED TO MOVE FORWARD".

TRICONTINENTAL BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF SOLIDARITY OF THE PEOPLES OF AFRICA, ASIA AND LATIN AMERICA

OSPAAAL, P.O. Box 4,224
Cable OSPAAAL, HAVANA, CUBA

Year II Num. 19 October, 1967